

Endorsement and Praise for UN General Assembly's Declaration of 15th March as International Day to Combat Islamophobia



As the global reference for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Member states and Muslim communities around the world in fiqh matters, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) is delighted to endorse and warmly welcome the unanimous adoption by the UN General Assembly of a historic resolution that proclaimed March 15 of every year as the "International Day to Combat Islamophobia" which refers to the phenomenon of intimidation against Islam and Muslims. Indeed this date symbolizes the painful terrorist incident that occurred on 15th of March 2019, when a terrorist affected by "Islamophobia" shot worshipers in two mosques in New Zealand, killing 49 innocent worshipers. The General Secretariat of IIFA greatly appreciates this significant resolution at this challenging stage in the history of relations between followers of different religions due to the distortion by fanatics, misinterpretation by the ignorant, and plagiarism by the unqualified. The Secretariat General of IIFA reaffirms the critical importance of enhancing, unifying and integrating the scientific, intellectual, cultural, social and political efforts of the world's elders, scholars, intellectuals, decision-makers and public opinion influencers in order to promote and spread a culture of dialogue, tolerance, coexistence, empathy, respect for religions and religious symbols, protection of public freedoms and human rights, and rejection of all forms of violence, extremism, intolerance and terrorism. The General Secretariat of IIFA would like to take this opportunity to express its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the States, organizations and associations that supported this historic resolution passed by the UN General Assembly. The General Secretariat also expresses special gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for launching this great initiative as well as for its successful efforts and engagement with the Muslim and sisterly countries and organizations that aim at fostering peace and harmony, civilized dialogue, and constructive communication among followers of different religions ; as evidenced by their early support to the draft resolution. The General Secretariat of IIFA also takes this opportunity to republish its Resolution n. 166/4/18, issued by the Academy's Council at its 18th session in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 29 Jumada al-Akhira 1428 (14 July 2007), addressing this phenomenon that has resulted to waves of hatred and hostility towards Islam and Muslims and putting pressures on Muslim

communities in many countries, as a result of accumulated historical misunderstandings and fabricated media distortions, as well as Muslims' blatant failure to convey Islam's golden principles, noble values, ideals and tolerant and enlightened teachings. The following is an excerpt from the above-mentioned IIFA resolution, of which we believe it has accomplished an important part: First: The need to confront this phenomenon with a comprehensive strategy to be adopted by all the Muslim countries, international Islamic organizations, and the Islamic organizations that represent Muslims outside the Muslim world. Such a strategy should comprise well-designed mechanisms and arrangements and cover the informational, political, economic and social aspects. It should also comprise a clear media message on the Islamic religion and its underlying glorious facts, principles, and values to be disseminated through popular media and internationally influential websites. Second: The need for consultation and coordination between the Muslim countries and the International Islamic organizations to make necessary decisions and take the required actions in response to the doubts-raising campaigns and offensive acts addressed against the Ummah and its symbols. Third: Calling upon the international community to support the Ummah in facing this aggressive attack against Islam and Muslims; work for furthering the culture of love and solidarity between nations; discourage hatred and aggression and enhance cooperation for achieving the benefit of all humanity. Fourth: Calling upon Muslim communities outside the Muslim world to act as messengers of peace and order and carriers of the pure message of Islam to the different countries and people of the world. They should avoid any practices that could harm the image of Islam while showing their strict commitment to its values and principles. The Academy also appeals to the Muslim countries to provide all necessary assistance to Muslim communities outside the Muslim world and enhance their knowledge about their religion and keep them aware of the developments in the Muslim world. Special organizations and institutions should be created to cater for strengthening their relationships with the rest of the Ummah. Fifth: Identification of the writings and publications relating to this phenomenon and encouraging Muslim scholars who are well

versed in the languages the proponents of this phenomenon and clarify the right picture of Islam. Sixth: Providing advanced education and training in foreign languages to the Islamic preachers who visit non-Muslim countries in order to enhance their efforts in presenting the conceptual and practical aspects of Islam. Existing institutions of preachers' training must be encouraged to do this job, or new institutions may be established for this purpose. Seventh: Building the relationship with the other based on mutual respect, communicating the pure message of Islam and emphasizing, in the educational curricula, the need for mutual understanding with the other. Along with this sobering resolution, the IIFA Council issued the following recommendations during the same session: Activation of clause no. (4) Paragraph (6) of the Statute of the Academy about "establishment of centers for Islamic studies in some of the central areas outside the Muslim world; cooperation with the existing research centers to promote the Academy's objectives and monitoring the materials published about Islam and responding to any attempt of raising suspicions against it." The proposed centers for Islamic studies should prepare rigorous studies about the West as well as a suitable strategy for dealing with the various Western countries and with all centers of power that influence Western governments and societies. The need for coordination with the focal point established by the Organization of the Islamic Conference for monitoring the issues of Islam in the Western media. More efforts should also be exerted, in coordination with the Academy, to correct the distorted picture of Islam currently presented through the educational systems in the West and respond to the suspicions raised against Islam. Organizing academic and intellectual seminars to be attended by Muslim and non-Muslim scholars to promote open dialogues, exchange of views, and enhance channels of mutual understanding and interaction. Finally, we ask Allah to reward the leaders of the OIC Member states for their support of the UN resolution, as well as all friends of peace and security worldwide for their unwavering support for the adoption of this historic resolution. Our last prayer will be: All praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano
 Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy

Secretary General participates in a Roundtable on OIC Through Decades: Challenges and Opportunities



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) participated on 14 Sha'ban 1443H, corresponding to 17 March 2022G, in a webinar Roundtable on: "OIC Through Decades: Challenges and opportunities Ahead". The Roundtable was jointly organized by Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan and Middle East Monitor London. In the introduction, Ms. Amina Khan, Director Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), Islamabad, welcomed the participants and the speakers noting the significant role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in fostering the economic, cultural and political interests of Muslims around the world. She added that Pakistan as a founding member state of OIC, has been playing a leading role within OIC institutions that allowed it to further the interests of OIC and Muslims around the world. One of those achievements was the UN's declaration of 15th March as an International Day to combat Islamophobia. This Pakistani initiative was supported by the member states of the Organization and countries loving harmony, tolerance, peace and coexistence. Then the Ambassador Aiazaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General of Institute, thanked the speakers for joining the Forum from different parts of the world. He particularly thanked Pakistan's Permanent Representative at OIC Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh for identifying such illustrious personalities and intellectuals. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to OIC particularly the plight of Palestinians which was the main cause of the founding of OIC among causes of concern to Muslims around

the world. Dr Daud Abdullah of Middle East Monitor pointed out the great potential of OIC as the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations. He alluded to the unfolding new realities following the Corona pandemic and the fall-out from the Ukrainian crisis and the emergence of new alliances that will make it incumbent upon the OIC to restructure itself to face the new challenges and seize the new opportunities. The Pakistani Foreign Minister H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a recorded speech emphasized the paramount importance of OIC in terms defending the rights and interest of Muslims in different parts of the world through dialogue and peaceful means. He concluded by saying: "Pakistan's hosting of the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC that will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of Pakistan is an indication of the commitment of Pakistan to the vision and mission of OIC at all levels in order to achieve Muslim solidarity". Then Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, highlighted the important role that OIC has been playing in addressing Muslim causes. He thanked the organizers of the Roundtable and the Government of Pakistan for this timely intellectual discourse ahead of the 48th Meeting of the CFM of OIC in Pakistan. He mentioned that: "the collective voice of OIC is a source of great inspiration and hope for over two billion Muslims around the world and that the potential of OIC cannot be underestimated and its ability to defend the rights and causes of Muslims around the world. Accordingly the affiliated and specialized organs of the OIC should play an important role in dealing with the causes of the Ummah, especially with the political support from Muslim leaders, in support of the OIC overall efforts in the cultural, scientific, social and intellectual realms". He then affirmed the need to seize the opportunities to transform OIC into people's organization with real solidarity between Muslims. He added: "I have a dream that one day there will be a single currency for OIC member states and a common passport for free movement between them. I truly dream that

the day will come when extreme poverty and ignorance will disappear within OIC member states through close solidarity between wealthy and less developed countries, by making the most of bilateral trade, sharing successful experiences in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, and moving forward in defending the rights and interests of Muslims living outside the Muslim world". He concluded by reiterating the intellectual, scientific and practical importance of the Prophetic saying that: "the similitude of the believers in their compassion, mercy and sympathy as one body, if a member complains about something, the rest of the body will feel the pain." This he notes represents the foundation of a way of life and rooting for the nature of the relations that should prevail between the peoples and countries of the Ummah. It is unity in diversity, diversity in unity. Finally Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to OIC, spoke about the role of the OIC in promoting unity and cooperation among its member states. In fact, he mentioned that the theme chosen for the 48th CFM meeting in Pakistan is "Unity, Justice and Development", to emphasize the significance and the need to unify the Ummah's voice, achieve justice and development in all member states of the OIC. He concluded by commending the great role played particularly by the Academy and the Islamic Development Bank Group in realizing the OIC's vision. The Webinar was attended by Ms. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Director of Family and Women's Affairs Department at the Academy and Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh Head of International Cooperation and External Affairs Division at the Academy.



Permanent Representative of Pakistan to OIC visits the Academy



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received H.E. Ambassador Radwan Saeed Sheikh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC, and his Deputy Mr. Ilyas Mehmood Nizami, on Tuesday 05 Shaaban 1443H corresponding to 08 March 2022G at the Headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah. H.E. the Ambassador thanked H.E. the Secretary

General for welcoming him and his deputy again in order to discuss together issues and topics of interest to the Muslim world and to provide the necessary support and assistance for the success of the Academy in playing its pivotal role to the fullest. He also explained that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is fully prepared to provide technical and advisory support to the delegation of the Academy, which will participate in the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC to be held in the period between March 22 and 24 in Islamabad, under the auspices of H.E. Prime Minister Imran Khan. Also he added that he was putting all the capabilities of the Permanent Representation at the disposal of the Academy for the success of the delegation's visit and the series of meetings that the delegation intended to hold on the sidelines of the meeting. For his part, H.E. the Secretary General expressed his great thanks and gratitude to the

Ambassador and his Deputy for the visit, praising the continued support provided by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Academy since its inception to the present day, and appreciating the great efforts of the Pakistan leadership and people in the service of the causes of Islam and Muslims everywhere. He then expressed the Academy's firm desire to strengthen relations of cooperation with official religious institutions and long-standing Pakistani scientific and research centers, especially those active in the field of dialogue, combating extremism and terrorism, and spreading moderation and tolerance, stressing the Academy's readiness to sign cooperation agreements, and MoUs with those institutions and centers on the sidelines of the regular meeting of foreign ministers of the OIC. He also expressed his aspiration for the support of the Permanent Representation to the scholars of the Academy, who will visit Afghanistan in the coming weeks.

Pakistani Minister of Religious Affairs Receives the Secretary General in his office in Islamabad

H.E. Dr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, welcomed H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, on Monday, 18 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 21 March 2022G, at the headquarters of the ministry in Islamabad. The Minister expressed his great happiness at the visit of the Secretary General and his delegation to the Ministry, praising the outstanding efforts undertaken by the Academy under his leadership in all fields, especially in the field of spreading and promoting a culture of moderation, tolerance, and coexistence inside and outside the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He also praised the central role played by the Academy, as the supreme legal reference for the Muslim Ummah, which aims to achieve scientific integration and intellectual exchange among the Ummah's scholars. Meanwhile, His Excellency expressed his aspiration to strengthen the partnership and cooperation between his Ministry and the Academy by signing a model cooperation agreement in the coming days. He then concluded his speech by giving a detailed overview of the activities and programs of the Ministry, which in many of its clauses are compatible with the Academy, especially with regard to programs aimed at correcting concepts and rejecting fanaticism, extremism, and terrorism in all its forms. For his part, H.E. the Secretary General thanked H.E.

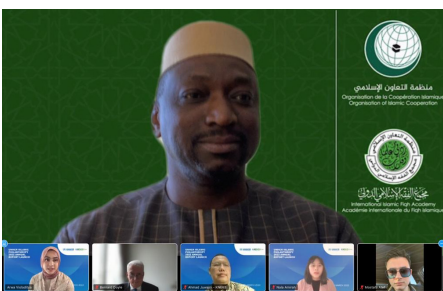


the Minister for the warm welcome and good reception. He also conveyed the appreciation of the Academy for the generous from the leadership and people of Pakistan, praising the initiatives of the distinguished leadership of Pakistan in promoting joint Islamic action and defending Islam and Muslims around the world, especially Muslim communities living outside the Muslim world. In the meantime, he noted the abundant thanks of the Muslim Ummah and the Muslim communities for the great historical initiative presented by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to combat the phenomenon of Islamophobia (= fear of Islam). This initiative resulted in the United Nations General Assembly declaring the fifteenth (15) of March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Also, he expressed the Academy's appreciation for the efforts of the leadership in persuading neighboring countries to respect the feelings of Muslims, especially with regard to their right

to bury their dead due to the emerging Corona pandemic in the manner determined by the teachings of their religion. His Excellency presented a comprehensive overview of the Academy's vision, mission, and goals, stressing on this occasion the Academy's readiness to build exemplary partnership and cooperation between the Academy and the scientific and religious institutions and centers in Pakistan, led by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. At the end of the meeting, the two parties agreed to coordinate efforts and visions with regard to providing intellectual and Shariah support to the current Afghan authority in the coming days. Then the two parties exchanged souvenirs. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the Ministry, the Special Adviser to the Minister, Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Director of Family and Women's Affairs Department at the Academy, and Mr. Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol Division at the Academy.



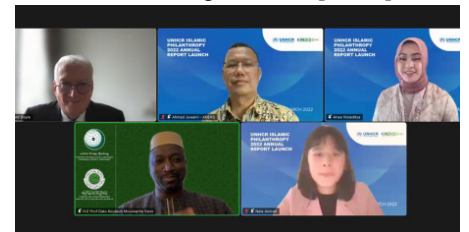
Secretary General participates in the launch of the annual report of Islamic charitable work for the year 2022 of the UNHCR



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in cooperation with the Indonesian National Committee for Islamic Economics and Finance in Jakarta, organized on Wednesday 20 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 23 March 2022G a virtual dialogue event via zoom technology, in order to launch the UNHCR's annual report on Islamic charitable work and its role in alleviating the suffering of refugees and displaced persons in order to proceed with the appeal to philanthropists to take care of this segment of society by taking advantage of the Islamic social financing tools represented in zakat, alms and donations, which have a significant role in meeting the needs of refugees and displaced persons in the present

era. In an intervention by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, pointed out the importance of dealing with the issue of refugees and displaced persons as a humanitarian issue in the first place, and therefore, it transcends religions and beliefs, as well as social and economic considerations. It is also directly related to the issue of the supreme shariah purposes that the divine religions called for their preservation and considered them among the necessary interests that must be protected and preserved from any defect. The goal of protection of life is the first of those purposes and the first of necessary interests, and from this goal stems the duty to preserve the human dignity of refugees and displaced persons, by enabling them to obtain a decent living that is appropriate for them, and providing appropriate health care, and infrastructure for them, their children and their spouses, such as schools, clinics, wells, and so on. Prof Sano explained on this occasion that the Academy had previously issued its historic resolution No. 165, in which it explicitly stated that it is permissible by Shariah to spend funds from zakat, alms and donations to meet the needs of refugees and displaced persons, as they

fit the fixed descriptions of the eight cases that merit zakat. Accordingly, refugees and displaced persons fall under the categories of the poor, the needy, the debtors, the wayfarers, and the newly converted to Islam. Therefore, it is permissible in Shariah to help them from zakat funds, just as it is permissible to help them from other funds of donations and alms such as wills, endowments, penances and vows to alleviate their suffering and in solidarity with them in their misfortune and harsh conditions. At the end of the event, H.E. answered the questions put to him by the moderator of the session, stressing the Academy's pride in its partnership with the UNHCR in order to provide Shariah and intellectual support for all UNHCR activities and programs aimed at collecting donations and alms for the Zakat Fund for refugees and displaced persons.



IIFA and the Council of Islamic Ideology sign an MoU in Islamabad

Within the framework of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy's (IIFA) persistent and continuous endeavor to build more relations of cooperation, communication and partnership with the higher authorities responsible for managing religious affairs within the member states of the OIC and in appreciation of the pivotal role played by the Council of Islamic Ideology, as the supreme legal reference for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the field of guidance, rectification and rationalization among followers of religions, sects and beliefs in order to preserve the order of the Ummah and social peace in Pakistan. Accordingly, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and his accompanying delegation, held on Thursday, 21 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 24 March 2022G, a meeting with the Council of Islamic Ideology at the Council's headquarters in Islamabad. On behalf of the President of the Council, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, who was on an official mission outside the capital, Prof. Dr. Hafez Ikram al-Haq, Secretary of the Council, welcomed H.E. the Secretary General of the Academy and the accompanying delegation, expressing his great happiness at the Academy's delegation visit to the Council. He also expressed his aspiration to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and coordination between the two institutions who have a long-standing partnership of more than three decades. He then presented an extensive overview of the Council, its history, mission, goals, and members, stressing the Council's desire to make maximum use of the Academy's resolutions, recommendations, and publications, as well as organizing panel discussions and specialized seminars on various issues and topics of common interest. He concluded by expressing the thanks of the President of the Council in particular, and all its members in general, for the approval of the Academy to sign a cooperation agreement between the two institutions at the end of the meeting. For his part, H.E. the Secretary General of the Academy expressed his great appreciation for the warm reception and gracious welcome to him and the delegation at the Council's headquarters, and appreciable practical achievements made praising the distinguished intellectual efforts



by the Council during the past six decades, which maintained and still maintains social peace and harmony and peaceful coexistence between the components of society with their different religions and sects. He also expressed his great pleasure in the diversity that characterizes the members of the Council, which is reflected in its wise openness to the membership of followers of other religions among the Pakistani citizens, in respect of the principle of freedom of religion and choice, and in commitment to the requirements of citizenship. He pointed out, in the meantime, that this is a responsible application of the Madinah Charter which included fixed principles, clear values, and noble foundations for the pillars of a comprehensive citizenship that embraces all citizens regardless of their religions, beliefs and sects. On the other hand, he expressed the Academy's great appreciation to the wise Pakistani leadership for its continuous defense of the rights and interests of Muslims everywhere in the world, congratulating them, in particular, for the blessed historical efforts that culminated a few days ago, in the United Nations General Assembly declaring the fifteenth (15) of March of each year as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. He also praised the continuous support and generous care that the Academy has enjoyed since its establishment to this day. In the meantime, he noted the Academy's full readiness to enhance cooperation and coordination with scientific and religious institutions and centers, especially the Council and the Ministry, in order to organize specialized scientific seminars and hold international conferences aimed at formulating an integrated plan of action to combat the

phenomenon of fear of Islam (= Islamophobia) in a systematic scientific and practical manner. He also welcomed the signing of a cooperation and partnership agreement between the Academy and the Council at the end of the meeting, explaining that this agreement represents a renewal of the existing relations of cooperation between the two institutions, and that signing it today aims to raise these relations to a more organized and planned level. Then the two sides exchanged cordial conversation on various issues and topics of concern to Muslims in the South Asian region, especially in Afghanistan, and agreed to cooperate and coordinate in order to enable the Academy to implement the decision of the OIC, which requires the Academy to lead the Ummah's scholars delegation to visit Afghanistan for discussion on ways to spread a culture of moderation, tolerance and access to education and work opportunities for both sexes. The two parties concluded the meeting by signing a cooperation agreement, ushering the beginning of a new phase of close cooperation, communication and coordination between them. His Excellency was accompanied by Ms. Sarah bint Amjad Hussein, Director of Family and Women's Affairs Department at the Academy, and Mr. Amjad Ibrahim Al-Mansi, Head of the Protocol Division at the Academy. It is worth mentioning that the Council of Islamic Thought is a supreme federal body established in 1962 and is concerned with giving legal advice to the government and parliament. It proposes laws in accordance with the Qur'an and Sunnah to Parliament and regional councils; advise and answer to Parliament, the prime minister, and provincial governors on any question referred to it.



Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the OIC visits IIFA



H.E. the Ambassador Dr. Shafiq Samim, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), visited on Monday 04 Shaaban 1443H corresponding to 07 March 2022G the headquarters of the Academy in Jeddah. He expressed his great thanks to H.E. Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, the Secretary General, for welcoming him, as well as for the qualitative changes and developments

witnessed by the General Secretariat of the Academy at all levels under his leadership. He also praised his Excellency's keenness to unify the Ummah, spread the correct concepts of religion, and promote the values of moderation and peaceful coexistence. He then touched on the upcoming visit of the delegation of the Academy under the umbrella of OIC to Afghanistan, in order to discuss with Taliban scholars and Afghan leaders a number of issues and topics related to moderation, the education of the two genders and the religious tolerance. The Ambassador concluded by expressing his aspiration for the success of this visit under the leadership of H.E. and confirmed his full readiness to provide all the necessary facilities for the success of the visit. For his part, H.E. the Secretary general welcomed his guest and thanked him for this visit, which demonstrates the appreciation that he and the Afghan Representation have for the Academy,

and emphasizes the sincere desire to strengthen cooperation between the Academy and scientific and religious institutions in Afghanistan. He also emphasized that the Academy looks forward optimistically to the visit of a delegation of scholars of the Ummah to Afghanistan in order to discuss with Afghan leaders and scholars on a number of issues of concern to Muslims in Afghanistan, notably the importance of joining forces to promote tolerance and coexistence, acceptance of the other, empowerment of both genders in education and building Afghan society. He also confirmed to the Ambassador the readiness of the Academy to make available all its scientific capabilities to support Afghanistan and the Afghan people in spreading moderation, establishing a culture of tolerance. The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdul Qahir Qamar, Director of the Research and Studies Department, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi,

The Director General of the Cabinet and Chief Advisor at the OIC visits IIFA

As part of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its subsidiaries, H.E. Dr. Mohammed Adam Kalbo, Director General of the Cabinet and Senior Advisor to the Secretary General of the OIC, visited the Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) in Jeddah on Wednesday 06 Shaaban 1443H correspondent to 09 March 2022G. On his arrival, he was welcomed by His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, thanking him for this first visit to the Academy since he began his duties as Director General of the Office of His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC. He also expressed to him the gratitude of the Academy and its great appreciation for the generous care, and the continued support it receives from His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC. In this regard, he noted the keenness of the Academy to harness all its capabilities, and all its efforts to implement the directives and initiatives of the OIC Secretary General aimed at promoting the Organization, its subsidiaries and specialized organs, and upgrading its performance towards quality assurance and perfection. For his part, Dr. Kalbo conveyed the greetings of His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC to His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy, praising the qualitative developments and changes taking place at the General Secretariat of the Academy under the leadership of Prof. Sano, and confirming the support of His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC and the General Secretariat, as the Academy is one of the most important organs of the Organization that it cherishes, and prides itself on its important role in presenting shariah moderately, promoting and spreading the approach of moderation, tolerance



and coexistence within the Muslim world and beyond. He also expressed the Organization's readiness to provide logistical support to the General Secretariat of the Academy to enable it to implement its activities, programs and sensitization projects within the Member States of the Organization, particularly in areas of internal unrest and discord, as a result of the adoption of extremist ideology and terrorism by some of the people of those areas, which requires the Academy to play a major role in correcting misconceptions about the values, principles and teachings of Islam, and combating ideas that feed intolerance, extremism and fanaticism. On the other hand, His Excellency assured his guest that in accordance with the directives of His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC, the Academy will soon organize a series of specialized seminars and special workshops in the Countries of the Sahel focused on promoting moderation, spreading a culture of tolerance, and coexistence, and reversing and countering the principles and discourse of extremist thought, and terrorism. This will be in cooperation and coordination with a number of leading scientific and academic institutions and centers on the African continent, such as the Union of African Scholars, the International

University of Africa, and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs of the Republic of Chad, with which the Academy will sign in the coming days a cooperation agreement and partnership. In addition, the Secretary General briefed His Excellency on the recent arrangements of the delegation of scholars of the Academy, which will visit the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the coming days, in order to meet with the new Afghan authority to discuss a number of topics and issues of interest to Muslims in Afghanistan, particularly issues of tolerance and coexistence, gender education and the participation of Afghan women in construction and development efforts within the framework of adherence to well-known shariah decisions and teachings, noting that the delegation is fully prepared to make that visit as soon as the directive of his Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC is issued. It is worth noting that the visit of the delegation of scholars of the Academy to Afghanistan is one of the recommendations of the last Extraordinary Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC member states held in Islamabad a few months ago. Since then, the Academy has begun to reach out to several trusted and accomplished scholars of the Ummah to join the delegation. At the end of the meeting, His Excellency accompanied his guest to visit the departments and divisions of the General Secretariat of the Academy.



Consul General of Sudan visits the Academy

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), received His Excellency Mr. Yasser Ahmed Siddiq, Acting Consul General of the Republic of Sudan in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday 06 Shaaban 1443H corresponding to 09 March 2022G, at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed his honorable guest and thanked him for the visit and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Republic of Sudan for its support and care for the Academy from its inception to the present day. He then gave His Excellency a brief overview of the activities of the Academy and the developments it witnessed in the recent period, noting the Academy's keenness to adhere to moderation and the culture of moderation, tolerance, and coexistence in the world, as well as its relentless pursuit of unity of position, and of the Ummah. His Excellency also praised the outstanding services provided by the Republic of Sudan through the contributions of some of its most prominent scholars, led by His Eminence the leading Maliki jurist Sheikh Rafik al-Dharir, former member of the Academy, and His Eminence Dr. Ahmed Khaled Babaker, former Secretary General of the Academy, and many others. His Excellency concluded by expressing his thanks and appreciation to the



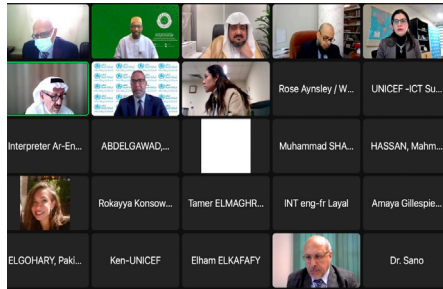
Sudanese Islamic Fiqh Academy, which signed a cooperation agreement with the Academy months ago, stressing the importance of this agreement because it includes an action plan and follow-up on the aspects of cooperation, communication, and coordination between the two institutions. Meantime, the Secretary General of the Academy welcomes the idea of signing a partnership agreement and cooperation with the prestigious academic institutions in Sudan, such as the International University of Africa. For his part, His Excellency the Ambassador expressed his pleasure and honor to visit the Academy expressing his gratitude to his Excellency the Secretary General for the good reception and welcome, stressing his keenness to establish strong and sustainable relations with the Academy and benefit from it in the service of many issues that concern Sudan and the Muslim world in general. His Excellency

also expressed his admiration and appreciation for the important developments witnessed by the Academy at all levels since his Excellency began his duties as Secretary General of the Academy, especially the relations of partnership and cooperation that are constantly built with the old and well-established juristic and scientific institutions in the Muslim world. His Excellency also added that he hopes that his Excellency the Sudanese Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs will visit the Academy during his official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a sincere expression from the Sudanese government about the status of the Academy and in recognition of its efforts in spreading moderation and tolerance. The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdel Fattah Abnauf, Director of the International Cooperation and Planning Department at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad Thili, Advisor to the Secretary General for Media and Public Relations at the Academy.



Secretary General calls on Muslims to abide by the instructions of the Health Authorities on Covid-19 during Ramadan

On Tuesday, 12 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 15 March 2022G, the Islamic Advisory Group held an online video discussion on safe practices during the holy month of Ramadan with the participation of scholars from the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Al-Azhar al-Sharif, doctors, and specialists from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Regional Office for the Middle East, UNICEF, the Red Crescent, and the International Red Cross. The Organizing Committee started the discussion by submitting a detailed report on the state of the emerging Corona pandemic, praising the efforts of various regional and international health organizations to combat the pandemic. H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, spoke about the role of Shariah in protecting the health of the individual and society in general and during the holy month of Ramadan with the presence of the Corona pandemic in particular. He started with the point that the term "Shariah" does not be prefixed by the word "Islamic", because Shariah means all the provisions prescribed by God whether they are belief systems, practical provisions or ethics, these provisions are all Islamic, as these provisions cannot be un-Islamic, which means that there is no non-Islamic Shariah! Accordingly, the addition of the word "Islamic" to the term "Sharia" was a misnomer and a common mistake. H.E then showed that there five objectives of Shariah namely protecting the religions, the family, the wealth, and the intellect. The preservation of these values is one of the necessary pillars on which life depends. He stressed that preservation of life is the first and most important of these five objectives. Therefore, efforts should be concerted in protecting it by adhering to instructions issued by the world's specialized health authorities. He also warned that the holy month of Ramadan is one of the most important occasions to be used to protect oneself and tame it in a distinct



style of diet of reducing eating and drinking in quantity and quality. This means that the month of Ramadan is an opportunity to get rid of excess weights by reducing foods and beverages, to get rid of cholesterol, fats, and other substances harmful to health. In the meantime, He pointed to the bad habits that many of us are involved in during the month of Ramadan where the demand for markets and shops is increasing, and the demand for large quantities of food in this holy month is increasing. This is undoubtedly in stark contravention of the supreme Shariah purpose of the month of Ramadan of the need for a Muslim to feel the difficult living conditions of the poor and destitute who have nothing to eat and drink. He therefore called for a review of this custom and its replacement with redoubling charity, kindness to the poor and needy in this month, as well as the need to consume less food and drink. Prof. Sano then addressed the importance of adhering to all health instructions and precautions issued by the authorities responsible for combating the Corona pandemic in the world, stressing that the pandemic still exists until this moment, as the WHO has not announced its end. Therefore, we must join forces to continue to combat this pandemic and get rid of it by respecting the instructions, precautions, and requirements, stressing that the responsible commitment to the safer practices mentioned in the food, drink and health instructions adopted would achieve the

purpose of self-preservation, and the application of the rule of "neither harm nor be harmed". He concluded his intervention by calling on all Muslims around the world to respect all other instructions, precautions and requirements issued by the health authorities in their individual countries, as an act of obedience to God and his Messenger, peace be upon him, and to the leaders. On the other hand, the panel discussion was attended by Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Shoaib, supervisor of the Observatory of Fatwa and Reviews at the Academy. He addressed the topic of "Fatwas and resolutions of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy on access to vaccines in Ramadan, and the legalization of Covid-19 vaccines and their importance in Islamic law", and Dr. Abdul Qahir Qamar, Director of the Department of Research at the Academy, also delivered a speech on "the importance of adhering to preventive measures during the month of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, and facilitating the access of fasters to vaccines during the holy month". The discussion was moderated by H.E. Dr. Yacoub Al Mazroui, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Advisory Group, and the panel was characterized by a wealth of up-to-date information and useful suggestions, and at the end of which, time was devoted to answering questions from followers from international organizations and viewers from around the world. It should be noted that the Academy issued a fatwa (juristic verdict) on the possibility of taking vaccines available against Covid-19 and the skin and muscle injections of the fasting person on the day of Ramadan, in response to a clarification from the Executive Committee of the Islamic Advisory Group, which will be distributed to states, ministries of health, health organizations and official bodies in the Member States of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Permanent Representative of Libya meets with the Secretary General



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy received His Excellency Ambassador Kamal Bashir Aribi Dahan, Permanent Representative of the State of Libya to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), on Sunday 10 Shaaban 1443H corresponding to 13 March 2022G, in his office in Jeddah. He expressed his sincere thanks to his H.E. the Secretary General for welcoming him again in about two months in order to continue to discuss ways and means of strengthening the important role of the State of Libya in the advancement of the Academy, and

enabling it to carry out its mission to the fullest. To achieve this, he reiterated the readiness of the Permanent Representation to provide moral and financial support to the Academy at all levels. He also touched on the upcoming visits to the Academy by some prominent Libyan religious figures in the foreseeable future in the framework of establishing cooperation, communication and coordination between the Academy and religious and scientific institutions and centers in the member states of the OIC. For his part, H.E. the Secretary General welcomed H.E. the Permanent Representative and thanked him for this visit, which indicates the generous care that the Academy enjoys from the Permanent Representation of the State of Libya in particular and the official religious and scientific institutions of Libya in general. He also welcomed all forms of communication, coordination, and cooperation with Libyan institutions in order to serve Muslims in the State of Libya. H.E. also praised the prominent role of the Permanent Representative in strengthening the relations of cooperation between the Academy and the

leading scientific institutions and centers in the State of Libya. He also thanked the State of Libya for paying its annual contribution to the Academy's budget and for its keenness to pay all arrears as soon as possible. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Mondher El-Chouk, Director of the Department of Cabinet, Mr. Mohamed Adnan Al Fehri, Director of the Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Mr. Mourad TLiLi, Advisor to the Secretary General for Media and Public Relations.



17th Monthly General Meeting of IIFA's Employees



On Sunday, 03 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 06 March 2022G, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the seventeenth monthly general meeting of the Academy's employees at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah. His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the staff, thanking them for their regular attendance at the periodic general meetings because of their direct impact on the outcomes and quality of work at the Academy. His

Excellency then touched on his participation in the Second African Conference on Promoting Peace in Societies, which was organized by the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum on February 8-10, in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott. On the sidelines of this participation, His Excellency held a number of high-level meetings with His Excellency the Prime Minister, Head of the Mauritanian Government, His Excellency the Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency the Mauritanian Minister of Islamic Affairs and Original Education. His Excellency signed with the latter a strategic partnership and cooperation agreement between the Ministry and the Academy. As is customary in this type of meeting, His Excellency gave the opportunity to all employees to express their opinions and observations about the work progress in the Academy, in addition to receiving their constructive suggestions for the advancement of the Academy and the performance of employees. His Excellency listened with interest and care

to the comments, suggestions, and questions of many employees, and responded to them with adequate and satisfactory answers, and called on everyone to continue to show a spirit of cooperation, synergy and fraternity, and to make maximum efforts to accomplish all the work of the Academy in the required manner. The meeting took several decisions, the most important of which are:

- Requesting from the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department to study the possibility of expanding the health insurance coverage network for the employees of the General Secretariat of the Academy, to improve the quality of health care provided to them.
- Putting surveillance cameras at the entrances and exits of the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy as soon as possible in order to provide the necessary security for the employees.
- Obtain the master digital copy of Zayed's Encyclopedia to be reprinted as soon as possible.

33rd Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

On Thursday, 14 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 17 March 2022G, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the thirty-third periodic meeting of divisions heads, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency the Secretary General welcomed the heads of divisions, thanking them for their regular attendance at these important periodic meetings that discuss the new issues of the Academy and put them for debate, in addition to following up on the implemented activities and programs. Then His Excellency spoke about the suffering that the State of Afghanistan is going through internationally and seeking to address the intellectual and religious problems by forming

a delegation of scholars of the Academy to visit Afghanistan to clarify the correct Shariah position on contemporary issues such as the right of both sexes to education, women's participation in development, construction and renaissance efforts, the importance of adhering to the approach of moderation, spreading a culture of moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and other issues. The meeting then discussed the items of decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Preparing a work plan for collecting and drafting the CVs of the members and experts of the Academy.
- Republishing the (Ramadan Sermons) section on the Academy's website, including

- the Academy's resolutions related to fasting and the blessed month of Ramadan. Reviewing the fatwa on vaccinations and their permissibility for the fasting person during the day in Ramadan to be published on the Academy's website.



34rd Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

On Thursday, 28 Shaban 1443H corresponding to 31 March 2022G, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the thirty-fourth periodic meeting of division heads, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency the Secretary General welcomed the heads of divisions, thanking them for their regular attendance at these important periodic meetings that discuss the new issues of the Academy, in addition to following up on the implemented activities and programs. In addition, His Excellency spoke about the joint event held in cooperation between the Academy and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, entitled "Islamic Philanthropy and its Impact: Sustainable Partnerships and Practical Solutions". The event marked the launch of the annual UNHCR report on Islamic charitable work. The report highlighted the impact of zakat and alms contributions received by UNHCR's



Refugee Zakat Fund on the lives of thousands of refugees and internally displaced families during 2021. The Academy had an active role in the achievements made in the field of Islamic charitable work during the past year for UNHCR through fatwas that support work mechanisms of the Zakat Fund for Refugees, by permitting the distribution of zakat or part of it to refugees to meet the humanitarian needs of refugees and internally

displaced people in the region and the world, as one of the most needy groups in order to advance the human being and preserve their dignity. The meeting discussed the items of decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Preparing a study on holding a symposium on organizing Islamic charitable work and issues (immigration, asylum and displacement) to issue an Academy resolution to that effect.
- Publish and upload the opening and closing speeches of the old sessions and symposiums to the Academy's website.
- Translating the biographies of the Academy's members that were prepared for the bulletin into English and French.
- Collect an appropriate number of research submitted to the Academy sessions on important current topics in order to edit them, in preparation for printing and publishing them within the publications of the Academy.

69th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

His Excellency Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), chaired the 69th weekly meeting of the directors of departments, on Tuesday 05 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 08 March 2022G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their attendance and participation, then His Excellency spoke about the official visit that he will make to Afghanistan with a delegation of senior scholars of the Academy to meet the new Afghan authority for dialogue with them, and to remind of the Islamic rulings related to a number of contemporary issues such as the right of both sexes to education, the participation of women in development, rebuilding and renaissance efforts, the

importance of adhering to the moderation approach, spreading a culture of moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and other issues of concern to Muslims in this honorable country. His Excellency also spoke about the importance of initiating preparations for holding the next session of the Academy in Jeddah, in cooperation with the strategic partners of the Academy and communicating with bodies of common interest regarding financial support for its convening. The meeting then discussed the items of decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Starting correspondence with the scholars of the Academy nominated to participate in the delegation of the Academy to Afghanistan to meet with the Afghan authorities.
- Provide a comprehensive

vision of the costs of holding the next session of the Academy in Jeddah, KSA.

- Issuing a clearance and a license for distribution of the book of resolutions in both Arabic and English from the concerned authorities.
- Submitting a detailed report regarding the comprehensive maintenance of the Academy's vehicles in order to ascertain the extent of the need for new vehicles.



70th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

Proceeding from the keenness of the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) to follow up on the work of its departments and to know what activities and programs have been accomplished, and to put all new issues on the meeting table for discussion and to take proper decisions, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the seventieth weekly meeting of the directors of the departments, on Monday, the 11th of Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 14 March 2022G, at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah. At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency welcomed the directors and thanked them for their attendance and participation, then His Excellency expressed his sincere condolences and sincere sympathy on the death of the sister of His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Governor of Makkah Al-Mukarramah Region, expressing sincere condolences and sincere sympathy on the death of Her Highness Royal Princess Noura bint Faisal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud – may God have mercy on her - asking the Almighty to bless the



deceased with the vastness of His mercy and satisfaction and dwell her in His vast gardens, and to inspire the honorable royal family beautiful patience and condolences. Then His Excellency talked about the visit of a delegation from the Academy to Afghanistan, which is scheduled in the coming days with a group of scholars to discuss a number of issues related to the interests of the Academy and its Shariah directives. His Excellency also spoke about his scheduled visit to Pakistan, during which he will meet with a number of officials with the aim of strengthening relations and concluding joint cooperation agreements between the Academy and the relevant authorities. The meeting

then discussed the items of decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several decisions were issued, the most important of which are:

- Preparing letters regarding the support of the Academy's Waqf fund from the heads and trustees of the Shariah boards of Islamic banks inside and outside the Kingdom.
- Sending a telegram of condolences to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Governor of Makkah Al-Mukarramah Region, on the death of his sister, and to His Highness Prince Bandar bin Khalid Al Saud, Secretary General of the King Faisal Charitable Foundation on the death of his mother – may God have mercy on her and dwell her in His vast gardens.
- Preparing a detailed report on the content of the data and recommendations of the scientific forums that were held last year in order to ascertain what was implemented of those recommendations.
- Starting to reprint the "Fiqh Rules Encyclopedia" according to a new design with a publishing house.

71th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



The Academy held its 71st weekly meeting for the directors of departments, on Monday, 25 Sha'ban 1443H corresponding to 28 March 2022G. H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their continued participation in the weekly meetings. He reemphasized the importance of these meetings during which discussions are held on various issues of the Academy in order to make

decisions about them. He then spoke about his recent visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to participate in the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He also praised the distinguished efforts of the Republic of Pakistan and thanked them for the hospitality. He highlighted his meeting with the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Noor Al-Haq Qadri and the Secretary of the Council of Islamic Ideology. He informed about signing a memorandum of cooperation with the Council at its headquarters in Islamabad, which aimed to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and coordination especially in enabling the Council to benefit from the Academy's resolutions, recommendations, and publications, and organizing a number of specialized seminars on

various issues and causes of common interest. The meeting then took several decisions, the most important which are:

- Preparing a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for securing the approval of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the 15th of March of each year as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
- Preparing a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Pakistani Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, and to the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Thought for the warm reception and excellent welcome and asking the Chairman of the Council to nominate a member to represent them in the Academy's Council.
- Contacting the translators of the book of resolutions and recommendations and asking them to abide by the terms of the contract signed between them and the Academy.

Rays of Light on the Lives of the Academy's Living Scholars (1)

Four decades have passed since the leaders of the Muslim world created the largest contemporary institution of collective Ijtihad, whose members consist of the elite and eminent contemporary Shariah scholars, supported by distinguished experts in natural sciences, sociology, economics and politics, with the aim of studying contemporary life problems and clarifying the legal provisions on issues of concern to Muslims worldwide, based on the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, the Sunnah; and the supreme objectives of the Shari'ah, and in accordance with the pious predecessors' methodology in legal deduction and inference, as well as the legal and jurisprudential maxims that have passed through the generations. By the grace of Allah, this institution has become the primary reference in fiqh matters, where OIC Member states and Muslim communities seek refuge to learn about the rulings of Shariah concerning the current calamities and

developments in life, and the practical scientific recommendations for guidance, clarification and orientation. As the ascetic Imam Abdullah Ibn Al-Mubarak once said, "The blessed science is that which is referred to its people". The Secretariat General of the Academy believes that there is an urgent need to make known to future generations the journey of those eminent jurists and scholars who concluded these outstanding resolutions and issued these clear recommendations, beginning with those of them who diseased and joined the Supreme Companion, may Allah have mercy on them and place them in His spacious gardens; and thus concluding with those who continue to enlighten us with their brilliant achievements, May Allah bless them with health and well-being, and may He prolong their lives. This blessed initiative by the Academy is to reassure those far and near that the resolutions and recommendations

are correct, as they are issued by prominent scholars known for their piety and fear of Allah, who mastered the instruments and skills of jurisprudential examination, and who fulfilled the requirements of Ijtihad and the ethics of Ifta. To fulfil this crucial responsibility, the Secretariat General of the Academy has decided to devote space in its monthly newsletter to present a brief biography of the Academy's members as scholars and experts, in appreciation of their work and recognition of their contributions, while praying for mercy and acceptance to them. We pray to Allah to assist us in completing this work as soon as possible; we only want to reform as much as we can, and our success is solely dependent on Allah, the Highest, the Greatest.

Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano
Secretary General of the Academy

His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid

Born in 1950 in the city of Buraidah in Qassim, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid grew up learning the Holy Quran and joined the primary and secondary school in Buraidah, then came to Makkah where he joined the secondary school, then the Faculty of Shariah at the University of King Abdul Aziz in Makkah, where he obtained a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Islamic Jurisprudence. Finally, he obtained a PhD from Umm Al-Qura University. His Excellency was appointed representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy since July 9, 2007. In the same year, His Excellency was elected its President. His Excellency has held many important scientific, administrative and political positions, including as a lecturer at the Faculty of Sharia at Umm Al-Qura University, Head of the Department of Islamic Economics, Director of the Center for Graduate Studies, Dean of the Sharia College for



Graduate Studies, and Dean of the Sharia College at the same university respectively. His Excellency was also appointed as the Vice President for the General President of the Two Holy Mosques and as the General President for the affairs of the Two Holy Mosques. His Excellency was the first

PhD holder to be appointed as a Senior Imam at the Grand Mosque in 1403. His Excellency was appointed Chairman of Shura Council in 1422, Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council in 1430 and Advisor to the Saudi Royal Court. His Excellency has participated extensively in scientific and international conferences, seminars and lectures inside and outside the Kingdom. His Excellency is the author of several books, researches papers and lectures, including Lifting Embarrassment according to Islamic Sharia: Its Rules and Applications, The Complete Jurisprudence of Calamities, Sermons of the Great Mosque: Guidance and Rememberance, Refutation of Ambiguities around the Issues of Living Reality, The Concept of Wisdom in Dawah, The Happy Home and Disagreement between Spouses, Collective Ijtihad and its Importance in Contemporary Calamities, The Principles of Dialogue and its Etiquette in Islam.

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano

Born on April 10, 1966 in the city of Kankan in the Republic of Guinea in West Africa, H.E. Prof. Koutoub bin Moustapha bin Ibrahim bin Sano received his foundational education at the Noor al-Islam school and at the hands of the city of Kankan's sheikhs. His Excellency then studied the sciences of grammar, morphology, hadith and tafsir under several sheikhs of the Grand Mosque of Makkah. His Excellency obtained a higher diploma of mastery of the French language from the Ministry of National Education in France, and also obtained a Bachelor's degree in Jurisprudence and its fundamentals with highest honors from Saudi Arabia's King Saud University, where he was the valedictorian. His Excellency then obtained a master's degree in comparative fiqh and its foundations from the same university and a postgraduate diploma in Islamic banking and finance from the International Islamic University of Malaysia. His Excellency then obtained a PhD in Law with a specialization in Fundamentals of Fiqh from the same university with a recommendation to print the thesis. His Excellency also obtained a State Doctorate in Islamic Finance with very high honors (excellent) from the Higher

Institute of the Foundations of Religion at Al-Zaytoonah University in the Tunisian Republic. His Excellency was appointed as a representative member of the Republic of Guinea to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in 2001. His Excellency has held important academic, administrative and political positions, including Professor of Comparative Jurisprudence and its principles, Islamic Finance and Maqasid for sixteen years (1993-2009) at the International Islamic University Malaysia. His Excellency was the Founding Director of the International Institute for the Unity of the Islamic Ummah in Malaysia and had also been Deputy Director of the International Islamic University Malaysia for External Relations and Innovation. His Excellency then served as Minister of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Guinea (2009-2011), Minister of International Cooperation (2011-2016), Minister of Diplomatic Affairs at the Presidency of the Republic and Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Republic (2016-2020), and was then appointed Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. His Excellency is the author of books and research papers published in Arabic, English and

French, including the following titles: a glossary on fiqh terminology and its foundations, the making of fatwa, Ijtihad in understanding the text: Benchmarks and rules, The Collective Ijtihad Desired For This, unrestricted public interests and their contemporary applications, there is no denial in the issues of Ijtihad, the encyclopedia of Hajj and Umrah, investment of savings according to Islamic jurisprudence, investment according to Islamic jurisprudence: Its provisions and rules, how we deal with the schools of Islamic law, the Muslim woman's rights and duties, and the work of the woman inside and outside the home.



His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad bin Suleiman Al Khalili

Born in 1361 corresponding to 1942, in Zanzibar in East Africa following his father's immigration from the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad bin Suleiman Al Khalili began his studies of the Noble Quran, religious sciences and Arabic language at the hands of traditional scholars in Zanzibar. His Eminence moved to the Sultanate of Oman in 1384H/1964G, and after he arrived in Oman, he worked as a teacher in Wilayat of Bahla. He was appointed Director of Islamic Affairs in the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in 1393/1974, as Mufti General of the Sultanate since 1395/1975, with the rank of Minister, a position he holds to this day. His Eminence has also been appointed as a member representing the Sultanate of Oman in the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, since November 19, 1984. His Eminence has held many other important positions, including Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Sultan Qaboos Center for Islamic

Culture; Honorary President of the College of Sharia Sciences; and Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Ministry of Heritage and Culture. His Eminence has also been a member of several academic institutions inside and outside Oman, including as a member of the Board of Trustees of Nizwa University in Oman, a member of the Al al-Bayt Foundation for Islamic Thought in Jordan, a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan, and a member of the International Council for Rapprochement of Islamic Schools in Iran. His Eminence is the author of more than twenty books on interpretation, worship, fatwas and has also participated in scientific research in specialized conferences and symposia, the most important of which are The Irrefutable Truth; The Proof of Truth; The Call of Truth; Reason between the Restraint of Nature and the Taming of Sharia; The Jewels of Interpretation; An Explanation of the Purposes of the Belief System; Tyranny: Its

Manifestations and Confrontation; The Ummah of Islam Towards Where? A Path and a Destiny; The Death of Atheism with the Proofs of Faith; The Correction of Misconceptions; When Will the Problem of the Human World Appear and Where Will It End? and the Encyclopedia of Fatwas by Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al-Khalili.



His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani

Born in 1943 in the village of Deoband in the Indian province of Saharanpur to a family renowned for their knowledge, H.E. Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani bin Muhammad Shafi' Al-Usmami bin Yassin studied many religious sciences in Persian and Urdu, then joined Dar Al Uloom University in Karachi, where he studied Sharia sciences and graduated in 1959, and also obtained the "Fadil Arabi" certificate with distinction in a year earlier in 1958. His Excellency also obtained the certificate "Specialization in Fatwas" in 1961 from the same university. His Excellency went on to study economics and politics and law and obtained a B.A. in economics and politics from the University of Karachi in 1964G, a B.A. in law from the same university in 1967, and an M.A. in Arabic sciences with honors in 1970 from the University of Punjab. His Excellency has been appointed as a representative member to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, representing the Islamic Republic of Pakistan since November 19, 1984. His Excellency has assumed several important positions, including Judge of the Federal Sharia Court of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Chairman of the Sharia Council of



the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain; Chairman of the Islamic Economics Center in Pakistan; Vice President of Dar Al Uloom University in Karachi; and Chairman of the Sharia Supervisory Board of some Islamic

banks. His Excellency has taught Islamic sciences at the postgraduate levels equivalent to Master's and PhD at Dar Al-Uloom University in Karachi. His Excellency has also been a professor of Hadith with an international degree equivalent to Master's; and a supervisor of specialization degrees in Ifta and Dawah. His Eminence has also been appointed as a member of the Islamic Fiqh Academy of the World Islamic League, a member of the Aal al-Bayt Foundation of Islamic Thought, a member of the Sharia Supervisory Board of the Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah), and a member of the Sharia Council of the Guidance Financial Group in the United States of America. His Eminence is the author of numerous scholarly publications in Arabic and English, including the Jurisprudence of Sales according to the four schools of law with its contemporary applications; Research on Contemporary Jurisprudential Issues; the translation of the book Maarif al-Quran into English; the completion of Fatah al-Mulhim fi sharh Sahih Muslim; the Origins and Etiquette of Ifta; Sukuk and its Contemporary Applications; Rulings on Tawarruq (securitization); and Rulings on Slaughtering.

His Eminence Prof. Rowane Mbaye



Born in Dakar, the Republic of Senegal, in 1934, Prof. Rowanan Mbai received his foundational education in grammar, morphology, and

language in the katatib, then earned a B.A. in philosophy and literature in Dakar, followed by a B.A. in Arabic and Islamic studies, and a B.A. in modern and contemporary history. His Eminence obtained a master's degree and a doctorate from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, as well as a state doctorate in literature from the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. His Eminence has been appointed as a representative member of the Republic of Senegal to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy since November 19, 1984. His Eminence has held many positions, including being head of the Center for Islamic Studies, Research and Training; Director General of the Islamic Institute of Dakar; Inspector General of National Education; Advisor to the Head of Government. His Eminence has also worked as a lecturer at the Cheikh Anta Job University, Chair Professor at the Cheikh Anta

Job University of Dakar, and Head of the Jury Committee for admission to the National School of Administration and Magistracy of Senegal. His Eminence has been a member of the Senegalese Society for Judicial Studies and Research, expert to the Human Rights Committee, consultant to UNESCO, expert to ISICO, and head of the International Scientific Committee to edit the UNESCO Encyclopedia on Islamic Culture. His Eminence has also worked as a visiting professor at the University of Memphis in the United States, where he taught pre-Islamic literature, Arabic grammar, jurisprudence, the art and method of translation, Islamic civilization in the medieval period, Islamic history, Islam in Africa, Sufism, and the history of thought. Prof. Mbai is the author of several books and scientific research in various scientific journals.

His Eminence Dr. Ajil Jassim Saud Al-Nashmi



Born in 1946G in Kuwait, H.E. Dr. Ajil bin Jassim bin Saud Al-Nashmi Al-Asadi Al-Otaibi studied and graduated from Kuwait's Religious Institute and obtained a doctorate in Jurisprudence and its principles at Al-Azhar University in 1971. His Eminence obtained a B.A. in Sharia and Law in 1971, an M.A. in 1974 and a Ph.D. in 1977 from the Faculty of Sharia and Law at Al-

Azhar University in the Arab Republic of Egypt. His Eminence was appointed as a representative member of the State of Kuwait to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, since November 19, 1984. His Eminence has held many important positions, including as a lecturer in the Department of Sharia and Islamic Studies at the Faculty of Law at Kuwait University, as Dean of the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies, as well as Chairman of the Sharia Council of Kuwait Finance House, Chairman of the Sharia Council of Zakat House, and Chairman of the Association of Sharia Scholars in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries. His Eminence has been appointed as a member of the Islamic Fiqh Council of the Muslim World League, a member of the Sharia Supervisory Board of the Gulf Investment House, a member of the European Fatwa and Research Council, a member of the Sharia Council of the Accounting and Auditing

Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and a member of the Ifta Council of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. His Eminence has also participated as a researcher, speaker and commentator in many specialized conferences and symposiums in several countries worldwide. His Eminence is the author of several books and research papers, including New developments in financial transactions; fatwas on financial transactions; the changing the value of currency according to Islamic jurisprudence; international arbitration and arbitration according to Shariah; keys to prohibited pretexts; founding beacons of rulings that must be taken into account in contemporary ifta; the impact of the science of logic in arranging the reasoning premises for the branches of jurisprudence according to the Hanbalis; and the observance of the principles of Usul against misunderstanding of texts.

His Eminence Sheikh Mahmoud Mal Bakri

Born in 1947 in the city of Maroua, Diamaré province in Cameroon, H.Em. Sheikh Mahmoud Mal Bakri started his foundation studies in the katabib of the African continent, then he joined the traditional madrassas and studied under the guidance of his father jurisprudence, language, grammar and morphology. In 1967, His Eminence joined the Islamic University and studied at its secondary institute where he obtained a high school diploma in 1969 and a bachelor's degree in 1973. His Eminence has been appointed as a representative member of the Republic of Cameroon to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, since 1997. His Eminence has held important positions, especially as a public high school teacher of Arabic language since 1977, and also taught Arabic in his private circles. His Eminence has been appointed a regular Imam since 1986 at the Great Mosque of Maro City. His Eminence was also chosen



as the chairman of the Council of Scholars in Cameroon of the Cameroon Islamic Cultural Association, participating in many international conferences organized by the OIC, and the sessions of the Appeal Committee in Africa. His Eminence was also appointed member of the Constituent Assembly of the Islamic World League, Vice President of the Union of African Scholars in the Central African region since 2010. His Eminence has participated in many conferences organized by the latter on various issues affecting the African continent. H.Em. Sheikh Mahmoud Mal Bakri was awarded the OIC Medal of Honor on November 25, 2019 in recognition of his distinguished efforts in the field of social and educational development and health services. In addition to teaching and giving sermons at the Grand Mosque and lectures on various occasions, His Eminence known for his continuous efforts in dawah and ifta in Cameroon.

His Eminence Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Rashid Ibrahim

Born in 1942 on the island of Fuvahmulah, one of the southern islands of the Maldives, H.Em. Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Rashid Ibrahim Muhammad Rashid Ibrahim memorized the Noble Qur'an at a young age, then studied at the Faydiya School on his island and at the College of the Righteous in Poilor in South India, then joined Al-Azhar University in Egypt, where he obtained an elementary certificate from Al-Azhar in 1963, a secondary school certificate in 1967, a secondary school diploma from the Faculty of Shari'a and Law in 1971, a master's degree in comparative jurisprudence from the Faculty of Shari'a and Law in 1973, and a general diploma in education from the Faculty of Education in 1974, from the same university, respectively. His Eminence obtained a PhD from the Faculty of Revealed Knowledge and Humanities of the Islamic University of Maldives, entitled: "Problems of the Muslim Family in the Maldives and their Remedy in the Light of Sharia". His Eminence has been appointed as a

representative member of the Republic of Maldives to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy since 1996. His Eminence has assumed important scientific, administrative and political positions, including as a teacher at Abi Ubaidah School in Dammam, Saudi Arabia; professor and cultural supervisor at Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh; and lecturer at the Faculty of Sharia at Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh. He has also worked as Advisor to the President of the Republic of Maldives, Special Undersecretary to the President of the Republic, Deputy Minister of Justice, Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Chief Justice of the Maldives, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, Chairman of the Committee for Translation of the Meanings of the Noble Qur'an into Maldivian, and Chairman of the Supreme Council of Ifta of the Republic of Maldives. His Eminence is the author of several books and research articles.



His Excellency Dr. Abu Bakr Dokouri

Born in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) in 1952, H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Dokouri studied the Holy Qur'an with his father in addition to local sheikhs, and received his primary education at the central school of Ouagadougou, the capital, where he obtained the Arabic primary certificate in 1966. Afterwards, His Excellency received his middle and high school education at Medina's middle and high schools, where he obtained a secondary literary certificate in 1972. His Excellency obtained a Bachelor's degree in Shariah in 1976 with excellent distinction from the Islamic University of Madinah in Saudi Arabia, and a Master's degree in Principles of Jurisprudence in 1980 with excellent distinction from the same university, with a recommendation to print the thesis and exchange it with universities. His Excellency then obtained a PhD in the principles of jurisprudence in 1983, with honors, from the Islamic University of Medina. His Excellency studied French at the Sorbonne University in France and at



the International School of French Language and Civilization in Paris, obtaining a higher diploma in French language and civilization. His Excellency has been appointed as a representative member of the Republic of Burkina Faso to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy since 19 November 1984. His Excellency has held several important positions in the following local and international institutions: Advisor to the President of the

Republic for Islamic Affairs, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Advisor to the Ministry of Higher Education, Advisor to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Burkina Faso, and Chairman of the Executive Council of the World Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and Head of the Annex of the Mohammed VI Foundation for African Scholars in Burkina Faso. His Excellency has also been appointed a member of the General Assembly of UNESCO, a member of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and a member of the Supreme Council of the Islamic World League in Makkah. His Excellency has received numerous academic awards. His Excellency is the author of several books and researches, including: rulings on paper money; zakat on corporate actions; birth control and its limitation in Islam; and the importance of the noble hadith in knowing rulings and ethics.

His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Abdu Omar

Born in 1942 in Lahj governorate in Yemen, H.Em. Sheikh Muhammad Abdu Omar received his primary, preparatory and secondary education in Makkah and Madinah. His Eminence graduated from the Islamic University of Madinah in 1969, another bachelor's degree in 1974, a Master's degree in Usul al-Fiqh from Al-Azhar University in 1976, and a degree in Law from the Arab League Institute in 1976. His Eminence has held several important positions such as Head of the Supreme Court in Shabwa Governorate in Yemen; Advisor to the Minister of Justice in Aden Governorate; Head of the Social

Judiciary; Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance in Yemen; Founding member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and member of the Association of Scholars in Yemen. His Eminence has participated in numerous courses and conferences and is the author of several research papers, books and publications in various fields, the most important of which are: the sources of Sharia; the objectives of Sharia; the position of fatwa in Islam; the blood money of women in Islam; the rights of women in Islam; dialogue in Islam; fanaticism and extremism.



His Eminence Sheikh Aziz Jan Mansurov



Born in 1944G in Ferghana, Republic of Uzbekistan, Sheikh Aziz Jan Mansurov (Abdelaziz Mansoor) received his primary education at the Tashkent Islamic High School, which was later named after Imam al-Bukhari, and studied at the Islamic University of the Republic of Sudan. His Eminence was appointed as representative member of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in 2007. His Eminence held many important positions and functions, including executive secretary of the editorial board of the magazine "Muslims of the Soviet East"; head of the Fatwa Department in the Religious Council, researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies;

head of the publishing house "Movarunaher"; head of the Religious Affairs Committee in the Council of Ministers; state advisor to the President Uzbekistan; Vice-President of the Islamic University of Tashkent; Vice-President of the Center for Islamic Civilization; and Vice-President of the Islamic Council of Uzbekistan. His Eminence has participated as a researcher and lecturer in many regional and international conferences. His Eminence is also reputed for his interpretation and translation of the Holy Quran into Uzbek and Russian, in addition to translating many Islamic books from Arabic and Persian into Uzbek and Russian, the four languages which he speaks fluently.

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